United Nations A/62/943–S/2008/575

General Assembly
Security Council

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22 August 2008

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General Assembly
Sixty-second session
Agenda item 108
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 20 August 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose, in my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of August, a position paper submitted by the Arab Group on the Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will be held on 4 September 2008 at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

The Arab Group requests that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine
Chairman of the Arab Group

08-47073 (E) 270808

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 August 2008 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Position Paper Submitted by the Arab Group on the Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The Arab States attach great importance to the efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations for they have been the most countries in the world to suffer from terrorism that claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people among their citizens. In this context, the League of Arab States (LAS) has been at the forefront in developing a counter-terrorism Arab strategy that was adopted by the 1997 Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior. The League of Arab States has also formulated a Comprehensive Arab Convention against Terrorism in 1998. This legal framework provides an important regional mechanism that complements the one established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, pursuant to Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. The Arab States have already implemented many of the measures provided for by the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while other measures are in the process of implementation.

The Arab Group attaches also great importance to all measures included in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, particularly those aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism, and the circumstances and factors conducive to its spread. The Arab Group stresses its firm position that terrorism should not and must not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. It underlines the need for everyone to adhere to this principle as provided for in the Strategy. In this context, the Arab Group calls for the promotion of dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures, peoples and religions and for the criminalization of contempt to or defamation of religions or targeting their symbols, considering that such acts are an incitement to hatred that might lead to terrorism. In this regard, the Arab Group commends the World Conference on Dialogue, held in Madrid, Spain, on 16 July 2008 under the auspices of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz, King of Saudi Arabia, and His Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, King of Spain.

The Group notes that the non-inclusion of a definition of the concept of terrorism and State terrorism in the Strategy, due to the absence of an internationally agreed definition of terrorism, would hinder achieving the international efforts to combat terrorism. The Group emphasizes in this regard the need to finalize discussions aimed at preparing a comprehensive United Nations Convention on Terrorism that includes a specific definition of international terrorism and State terrorism, distinguishes between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist occupation and aggression, and takes into account that divine laws and international and regional covenants do not condone the killing of innocent civilians.

The Group encourages the establishment of an International Counter-Terrorism Centre under the umbrella of the United Nations as envisaged in the Strategy.

The Arab Group attaches paramount importance to the success of the Strategy review process despite the lack of a clear methodology to prepare for this important meeting. As a contribution to the success of the Strategy review process, the Group wishes to make the following observations:

1. The Arab Group stresses the importance of following up on the implementation of the Strategy in a comprehensive and non-selective manner, and the pivotal role played by the General Assembly, as the primary organ with the widest representation in the United Nations system, in addressing the issue of combating terrorism in all its aspects.

2. The Arab Group stresses the need to make optimal use of the General Assembly meeting to be held on 4 September 2008 in order to discuss the implementation of the Strategy, and of the forthcoming meetings in the context of the periodic review, by addressing various difficulties and deficiencies that hinder the implementation of various items of the Strategy in the most convenient manner.

3. Consequently, the Arab Group welcomes the regulation of the relationship between Member States and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) within the purview of the latter's mandate, as stipulated in the General Assembly draft resolution on the Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Such an approach would allow for a wider participation by Member States, as the primary responsible parties for policy guidance and strategy implementation, and for providing them with the capacity to supervise the activity of CTITF in the context of transparency and accountability.

4. The Arab Group considers, in this regard, that the institutionalization of CTITF within the Secretariat of the United Nations and endowing it with the necessary resources would provide a convenient basis for an organized, constructive and integrated contribution to the efforts made by the Member States to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.

5. With regard to the symposium for the victims of terrorism that the Secretary-General of the United Nations intends to hold, the Arab Group, while expressing its deepest sympathy to the victims of terrorism, considers that it is important not to link the issue of Strategy review, with its global dimensions, with the theme of the symposium, whose organizational details must be carefully examined in a context of full transparency and in consultation with all Member States. This will allow for everybody's considerations to be taken into account, avoid politicization and imbalance and guarantee that the symposium will not be counterproductive and deviate from the lofty purpose of holding it, namely to assist the victims of terrorism.

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Security Council

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 17
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 21 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a statistical summary of Israeli violations from 1 to 14 August 2008 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 17, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-48897 (E) 270808 280808

Annex to the identical letters dated 21 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Subject: Israeli violations, acts of aggression and other activities from 1 to 14 August 2008

Air violations

On 1 August 2008, between 0700 hours and 1900 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over Naqurah and circling over regions of the South and Beirut. It departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 3 August 2008, between 0750 hours and 2230 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over Kafr Killa, and circling over regions of the South. It departed over Rumaysh.

On 4 August 2008, between 1010 hours and 1040 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over Kafr Killa and flying in a northerly direction as far as Shikka. They departed over the sea off Naqurah.

Between 1050 hours and 1145 hours, two enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Batrun and flying in an easterly direction as far as Baalbek and Hirmil, and circling over all regions of Lebanon. They departed over Rumaysh.

On 5 August 2008, at 1425 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over Naqurah and circling over regions of the South. It departed on 6 August 2008 at 0055 hours over the sea off Naqurah.

On 6 August 2008, at 0820 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over `Alma al-Sha`b, and circling over regions of the South, the Shuf and Beirut. It departed on 7 August 2008 at 0400 hours over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1225 hours and 1230 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl area.

Between 1000 hours and 1315 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin areas.

On 7 August 2008, between 1120 hours and 1200 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the occupied Shab`a farmlands and flying in a northerly direction as far as Beirut. They circled between Beirut and the South over sea and land before departing over the sea off Naqurah.

On 8 August 2008, between 1645 hours and 1725 hours, four enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over the sea off Tyre and flying in a northerly direction as far as to the west of Sidon before heading south and departing over the sea off Naqurah.

On 9 August 2008, between 0700 hours and 1400 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Bint Jubayl and Tibnin areas.

Between 2055 hours and 2130 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the Naqurah area.

On 11 August 2008, between 1200 hours and 1325 hours, four enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, two entering from over `Aytarun and two from over Kafr Killa. They flew in a northerly direction as far as Shikka, and circled over all regions of Lebanon. They departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

At 0750 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over `Alma al-Sha`b, flying in a northerly direction as far as Beirut and circling over Beirut and the South. It departed on 12 August 2008 at 0115 hours over Rumaysh.

On 12 August 2008, between 1200 hours and 1325 hours, eight enemy Israeli military aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over `Alma al-Sha`b and circling over all regions of Lebanon. They departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

Between 1640 hours and 1715 hours, enemy Israeli military aircraft overflew the `Ayta al-Sha`b area.

Between 2000 hours and 2120 hours, two enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over Kafr Killa and circling over Shikka and the southern regions. They departed over `Alma al-Sha`b.

On 14 August 2008, between 1100 hours and 1525 hours, an enemy Israeli reconnaissance aircraft violated Lebanese airspace, entering from over `Alma al-Sha`b and circling over regions of the South. It departed over Rumaysh.

Sea violations

On 10 August 2008, between 2155 hours and 2157 hours, in the open sea off Ras al-Naqurah inside occupied Palestinian territorial waters, an enemy Israeli military launch shone a searchlight for two minutes in the direction of the coast off Ras al-Naqurah.

Acts of aggression in the field

On 5 August 2008, between 2000 hours and 2215 hours, for a period of three minutes, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from its position opposite Marwahin and al-Labunah in the direction of the two Army positions in Jabal Balat and al-Labunah and of Lebanese territorial waters off Ras al-Naqurah.

On the night of 8-9 August 2008, for a period of three minutes, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from one of its vehicles in the direction of the Lebanese Army position south of `Alma al-Sha`b.

At 2115 hours, for a period of 30 seconds, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from the Zar`it barracks in the direction of the Marwahin triangle. At 2125 hours it did so again for a period of two minutes.

On 10 August 2008, at 2137 hours, for a period of two minutes, the Israeli enemy shone a searchlight from the Zar`it barracks in the direction of the Marwahin triangle.

On 12 August 2008, between 1530 hours and 1600 hours, inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands at the Radar outpost, enemy Israeli forces fired a number of rounds of medium-weapons fire in the direction of the area around the position.

On 13 August 2008, between 2230 hours and 2300 hours, the Israeli enemy fired a number of rounds of light- and medium-weapons fire from its outpost at Ruwaysat al-`Alam inside the occupied Shab`a farmlands.

Other Israeli activities

On 4 August 2008, at 2240 hours, inside occupied Palestinian territory at the Metullah settlement opposite the Al-Qa'im mosque and the Fatimah gate in the town of Kafr Killa, enemy Israeli forces fired eight flare shells. In addition, enemy foot patrols were spotted inside the settlement's orchards.

On 5 August 2008, at 2035 hours, five enemy Israeli helicopters were observed flying inside occupied Palestinian territory opposite the Lebanese Army Lahlah position in `Alma al-Sha`b. At 0820 hours, warning sirens were heard for a period of seven seconds, and at 2205 hours, the sound of loudspeakers blaring in Hebrew was heard from the Ras al-Naqurah position.

United Nations A/62/945

General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 54 (b)
Sustainable development: follow-up and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which is submitted in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 62/191, presents recommendations on ways to strengthen the capacity of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to fulfil its mandate and to strengthen, in particular, the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme and the Small Island Developing States Network.

08-48975 (E) 180908

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IV.	Measures to strengthen the Unit	5
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I. Introduction

1. It will be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 62/191, reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as called for in its previous resolutions 57/262, 58/213 A, 59/229, 59/311, 60/194 and 61/196, and urged the Secretary-General to ensure that the Unit is sufficiently and sustainably staffed without delay to undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, from within existing resources, including by redeploying resources.

2. The General Assembly also requested that a report be prepared during its sixty-second session on actions taken to implement the mandate of the Unit.

3. The present report provides an overview of the range of mandated functions of the Unit and gives an account of measures taken to strengthen its staff complement.

II. Background

4. The Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States was adopted in Barbados in 1994. The Programme underscores the vulnerabilities and development challenges faced by small island developing States, and describes a comprehensive, multisectoral strategy to advance sustainable development in those countries, with emphasis on institutional strengthening and capacity-building to improve their efforts in: promoting economic diversification; managing marine and land resources while preserving unique island biodiversity; improving risk management; promoting industrial innovation and renewable energy exploitation; and supporting a broad social agenda, including health, education and cultural development.

5. To assist the small island developing States in the implementation of that agenda, the international community deemed it essential that a "clearly identifiable, qualified and competent entity" be established within the Secretariat to provide secretariat support for both intergovernmental and inter-agency coordination mechanisms. In 1995, the Small Island Developing States Unit was established by General Assembly resolution 49/122 to fulfil that mandate.

6. In 1997, the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/183, recognizing the importance of information exchange on capacity development among small island developing States in advancing the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action, established, within the Small Island Developing States Unit, the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDSTAP) and the Small Island Developing States Network (SIDSNet). Through both SIDSTAP and SIDSNet the Unit sought to promote: wider understanding and international recognition of the challenges faced by the small island developing States; opportunities for regular contact among those countries; strengthened interregional exchange; capacity-building at the national level by educating stakeholders and mobilizing experts on the problems facing those States; facilitating research and data collection; and sharing information on key development issues. Both programmes, supported from the beginning by extrabudgetary resources that are no

longer available, will require additional financing from extrabudgetary resources if the services once offered are to be restored.

7. The international community reviewed the 10-year progress in implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2005. At that meeting the Commission on Sustainable Development was mandated as the primary intergovernmental body responsible for the implementation of and follow-up to the commitments related to small island developing States. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General was requested to fully mobilize and coordinate the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, and to further mainstream issues relevant to small island developing States in order to facilitate coordinated implementation of the follow-up to the Programme of Action at the national, regional, subregional and global levels and to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit continued to provide substantive support and advisory services and strengthened knowledge management through SIDSNet.

III. Mandated functions of the Small Island Developing States Unit

8. The mandate of the Small Island Developing States Unit, reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolution 59/311, established the foundation for the existing functions of the Unit in the following areas:

(a) United Nations system-wide coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and maintaining contact with small island developing States focal points through the inter-agency consultative group on small island developing States, informally established and coordinated by the Unit;

(b) Comprehensive monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, both to the General Assembly and within the framework of the biennial cycle of reporting in the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) Delivery of advisory and information services for decision-making by small island developing States and support for networking among stakeholders through SIDSnet, which serves as a critical tool in support of the work of the Unit.

9. On the basis of the above functions, the Small Island Developing States Unit performs normative functions, including: the preparation of annual reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and on the thematic clusters of issues considered by the Commission on Sustainable Development; organization of the review of the Commission of the Mauritius Strategy on Small Island Developing States Day; preparation of articles and studies for publication on issues of importance to key small island developing States; extensive research, building on the in-house database on small island developing States; participation in relevant meetings and ongoing consultations with the small island developing States and the donor community.

10. The Unit's technical and advisory functions, which include management and maintenance of SIDSNet, provision, on request, of technical advice and information

to small island developing States Members of the United Nations and technical support in project implementation, have been largely curtailed because of insufficient resources.

11. The Unit's coordination functions include: convening regular consultations among members of the inter-agency consultative group, including the relevant regional commissions and secretariats of regional intergovernmental organizations directly involved in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy at both the national and regional levels; harmonization of the regional operational plans to ensure comprehensive oversight of priority programmes; organization of and participation in relevant meetings to enhance coordination of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy; and consultation within the Secretariat to advance mainstreaming of and promote synergies on issues of relevance to small island developing States in the programmes of the United Nations.

IV. Measures to strengthen the Unit

12. At its inception, the Small Island Developing States Unit consisted of two established posts: the Chief of Unit (P-5) and a Sustainable Development Officer (P-4). The Secretariat has taken measures to strengthen the Unit through deployment of additional established posts: (a) an Associate Sustainable Development Officer (P-2), (b) a Website Assistant (G-6), and (c) a General Service staff member (G-4). In addition, a Sustainable Development Officer (P-4) position has been requested in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (see A/62/708). In addition, extrabudgetary resources have been secured with the support of the Government of Greece to provide for an Interregional Adviser (L-4) for a period of one year. An Associate Expert will be assigned to the Unit for two years, with the support of the Government of Italy, later in 2008. The Unit will also continue to benefit from its interaction with the Division for Sustainable Development.

13. Consultations are ongoing with donor Governments to secure extrabudgetary resources to support the revitalization of SIDSNet and the restoration, for two years, of the technical posts lost in 2005 for lack of resources, that is, the SIDSNet computer programmer (L-3) and the web communications officer (L-3).

V. Conclusion and recommendations

14. **Recognition of the challenges facing the small island developing States as a "special case" within the context of sustainable development gave impetus to the convening of two international conferences devoted to addressing their development needs. At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State also recognized the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States and reaffirmed their commitment to the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy (see resolution 60/1), for which the Small Island Developing States Unit has been given substantive responsibility. The General Assembly has also decided in its resolution 62/191, that a review of progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy would be undertaken during its sixty-fifth session. Responsibility for the organization of this review and its follow-up will rest with the Small Island Developing States Unit.**

15. **In view of the new and emerging challenges facing the small island developing States, there is a need for systematic efforts to scale up the capacity to deliver the mandates of the Unit. Special consideration should be given to expanding the complement of established posts in the Unit beyond the three Professional level posts and two General Service posts presently assigned, in particular by assigning additional established posts for the management of SIDSNet.**

United Nations A/62/946–S/2008/584

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Security Council

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 18
Question of Palestine

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Identical letters dated 22 August 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On 14 July 2008 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Governments of the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of South Africa co-chaired the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership Ministerial Conference on Capacity-Building for Palestine.

We have the honour to submit to you the outcome document of the said Conference (see annex) and request your kind assistance to circulate this document as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 18, and of the Security Council, and to distribute it to all States Members of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) R.M. Marty M. **Natalegawa**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

08-49265 (E) 260908

Annex to the identical letters dated 22 August 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Co-Chairs Statement
New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP)
Ministerial Conference On Capacity Building for Palestine
Jakarta, Indonesia 14 July 2008

We, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Minister of Social Development of the Republic of South Africa had the honor to co-chair the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, convened on the 14th of July 2008 in Jakarta.

The Ministers of Asian and African Countries enjoined themselves in this historical assembly to reaffirm our commitment to the spirit of solidarity as avowed in our Leaders' Declaration during the Asian-African Summit of 2005 in Jakarta, in supporting the Palestinian people in their struggle to establish a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Inspired by this spirit, we have cast our commitment to accelerate the development of the Palestinian people through the projects of capacity building. We believe the projects will constructively empower the Palestinian people, in preparing for and anticipating the eventuality of the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state in the near future.

Acknowledging the dynamics of events which created a positive climate for the attainment of peace in the Middle-East region, we share the common view that the NAASP initiative to assist the Palestinian people would yield positive outcomes, particularly in complementing the ongoing peace process.

It is, however, disappointing to note that the conditions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory have not improved since the Annapolis Conference as represented by continuing expansion of Israeli settlement, restrictions-, and building of the wall.

Driven by a spirit of solidarity, we are truly pleased to note the attendance at this Conference by 56 Asian and African countries, and countries of the Latin American region, and several international organizations. This high level of attendance is a reflection of the NAASP Partnering countries' commitment, among developing countries, and collective conviction both in supporting the Palestinian cause, as well as in creating an Asian-African region at peace with itself, and with the world at large.

We share the common view that the establishment of a viable and prosperous Palestinian state can be facilitated through coordinated and well targeted capacity building.

Driven by the strong sense of determination to achieve the aforementioned goal, we the Ministers of Asian and African Countries have therefore committed ourselves to the provision of capacity building programs in the areas of economic development, including governance, women empowerment, and public works as appear in Annex 1: List of Commitments of Capacity Building for Palestine. This commitment could entail the training of as many as 10,000 Palestinian people.

The provision of the programs is aimed to provide the prerequisite factors in enabling the Palestinian people to achieve the necessary capability in ensuring the smooth running of government and public services to promote economic development. In pursuing the goal, the said programs are designed to develop professionalism and efficiency within the Palestinian state apparatus and beyond, through human-centric capacity building.

In terms of the beneficiaries, the scope of the projects includes not only Palestinian citizens residing within Occupied Palestinian Territories, but also Palestinian people living in clusters of refugee camps in surrounding areas.

We underscore the distinct character of this NAASP project in assisting the Palestinian people as sincerely initiated by the Asian-African nations based on a common historical background of colonization and underdevelopment. This project is further strengthened by the accumulated knowledge and experience of the Asian African countries in sustaining a statehood following fierce struggle for independence.

Furthermore, we are of the view that this NAASP project is uniquely tailored to respond to the actual needs of the Palestinian people, of their own choosing. In implementing the project, we also envisage the programs to be consistent and in line with the Palestinian Government's reform and development plan, which lays out a vision of how to build an independent and sovereign Palestinian state.

We are mindful that this undertaking is definitely of great value to the advancement of NAASP's intention to assist in establishing peace, justice, prosperity, and equality in the Asia-Africa region.

Resolved to ensure the success of the effective implementation of the Asian-African countries' commitment, we emphasize the need for a follow up mechanism supervised by the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit as further elaborated in Annex 2.

We wish to extend our appreciation to the Asian and African countries for their valuable contribution to the success of the Conference and concrete capacity building commitments. We would also like to extend

our gratitude to the representatives from the Latin Americas and International Organizations for their valuable attendance and contribution to the Conference.

This Conference is not the end, but instead, the beginning of our endeavor to lend our support in helping our Palestinian brothers. We therefore encourage every Asian and African country to vigorously implement the commitments that have been made during this Conference, to harness our endeavor under the spirit of Asian-African solidarity.

The Conference acknowledged that the participating countries vary in terms of size, population, and level of development, yet our differences should not hamper us from extending our concrete support to Palestine. We therefore call upon the Asian-African and partnering countries including international organizations to continue lending their support to our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Jakarta, 14 July 2008

LIST OF COMMITMENTS
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PALESTINE
(2008-2013)

ASIA

As of 15 July 2008

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of							To be determined later
Azerbaijan, Republic of							To be determined later
Bahrain, Kingdom of							To be determined later
Bangladesh, People's Republic of	Economic Development		Guiding in the Establishment of seed laboratory		Annual	Ministry of Agriculture	Through Bangladesh Training Centers and Resource personnels
			Guiding in the development of irrigation network and providing training on irrigation		Annual	Ministry of Agriculture	
	Social Sector		Credit Loan Program For Women in Rural And Marginalized Areas and Capacity building for small grassroot/ NGOs		Annual	Ministry of Women Affairs	
			Training primary level teachers		Annual	Ministry of Education and Higher Education sector	
			Capacity building in case of Youth and sports		Annual	Ministry Of Youth And Sports	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Governance		Enhancing capacity building of the MoFA /Training for diplomats, administration , Police and Judicial, service official		Annual	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Establishment, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law	
Brunei Darussalam							Brunei Darussalam is still looking into the details of the projects
Cambodia, Kingdom of							To determined later
China, People's Republic of							To be determined through bilateral consultation with PNA
India, Republic of	Economic Development	60 (Total Number) Per Year	Trainings on Management		Short Term	Ministry of National Economy & Palestinian Standard Institution	Under Indian and Technical Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, Administration, ITU Technical Cooperation Division of the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi
			Trainings on SMEs, Rural Development		Short Term		
	Governance		Trainings on Information Technology and Telecommunications		Short Term	General Personnel Council	
	Social Sector		Education and Technical Courses		Short Term	Ministry of Education and Higher Education sector	
Indonesia, Republic of	Governance	60 (total number for governance sector)	Diplomatic Training for Diplomats		2008-2013	DFA	
	Infastructure	130 (total number for infrastructure sector)	Training course on project cycle		2008-2013	Department of Public Works	
			Water & Wastewater management		2009-2013	Bandung Institute of Technology	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Economic Development	189 (Total for economic development sector)	Training Program for business incubator develop SMEs		2009-2013	DFA	
			Training Program on Micro-Finance for AA Countries		2008-2013	DFA, State Secretariat	
			Training Course for primarily bedouins and small farmers on raising and improving the shami goats		2010-2013	Dept. of Agriculture	
			Training course on cat fish aquaculture		2009-2013	Dept. of Marine and Fisheries	
			Training on museum administration		2009	Dept. of Culture and Tourism	
			Apprenticeship program for Palestine on SMEs development		2008-2013	DFA, State Secretariat	
	Social Development	447 (Total number for social sector)	Dharmasiswa sholarship		2009-2013	Dept. of Education	
			Scholarship on tourism and management		2009	Dept. of Culture and Tourism	
			Training on mechanical draft		2009-2013	Dept. of Industry	
			Training on piping design		2009-2013	Dept. of Industry	
			Scholarship from Hasanuddin University		2009	Hasanuddin university	
			Training for Teachers		2009	Hasanuddin university	
			Post Graduate Scholarship		2009-2013	Bandung Institute of Technology	
			Post Graduate Scholarship		2009-2013	Parahyangan University	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			International workshop on women empowerment on development participation		2008-2013	DFA, State Secretariat, Ministry of Women Empowerment	
			Scholarship at islamic universities in Indonesia		2009-2013	Dept. of Religious Affairs	
			TCTP on maternal child health		2008	State Secretariat	
			TCTP Vocational rehabilitation for persons with disabilities		2008	State Secretariat	
			Training for fire brigade personnel		2009-2013	Jakarta Provincial Government	
			Training on recording oral history and electronic data system		2009-2010	National Archive	
Iran, Islamic Republic of		1000 (total number)					To be determined later
Iraq, Republic of							To be determined later
Japan							To be determined later
Jordan, Hashemite Kingdom of							To be determined after bilateral consultation with PNA
Democratic People's Republic of Korea							To be determined later
Republic of Korea	Governance, economic development and HRD	200 (total number)	Training program (Technical cooperation assistance)		2008-2010	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)	To be determined later
	Health Care	To be determined	To be determined		2008-2010	KOICA	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
State of Kuwait							To be determined later
Kyrgyztan, republic of							To be determined later
Lao PDR							To be determined later
Lebanese Republic							To be determined later
Malaysia	Details to be determined later		Technical expertise to conduct projects under Capacity Building Programme for OIC Countries				Funding through IDB Fund
Myanmar, Union of							To be determined later
The Sultanate of Oman							To be determined later
Pakistan, Islamic Republic of	Governance		Rental subsidy for Palestinian embassy in Islamabad		Continuation since 1995		
	Social Sector	50+10	Reserved seats for students in the fields of Engineering, medicine, Dentistry & Pharmology		Continuation of programme since 1976		
		8	Stipend		Annual		Through Palestinian Embassy
			Open admission policy for self-finance students		Annual	Higher Education Commission of Pakistan	
The Philippines	Governance	2	Constructing and Furnishing a Palestinian Institute of Diplomacy		5-8 years	Department of Foreign Affairs, Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP), Foreign Service Institute (FSI)	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Building GPC's staff capacities in administrative monitoring of ministries and agencies		5-8 years		
			Develop and sustain the capacity of environment quality authority		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
			Increase work efficiency for staff and judges; development a judicial institute		5-8 years	TCCP, Philippines Judicial Academy	
			Increasing work efficiency for staff & judges and development of judicial initiative				
			Facilitation and efficiency increase of the civil service law work mechanis, basic working skill training for PNA staff,		5-8 years	TCCP, Development Academy of the Philippines	
	Economic Development	3	Establishing and developing a community-based marine protected area management program		5-8 years	TCCP	
		3	Alternative livelihood training program		5-8 years	TCCP	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Development of a database for both tourism and cultural heritage sectors, and training of personnel			TCCP, Department of Tourism (DOT), National Commission on Culture and Arts (ACCA)	
	Social Sector		National strategy for teacher qualification and training		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Education	
			Training on the professionals specialized diploma in supervision, inclusive education, school leadership, librarian		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Education	
			Improve clinical laboratory performance		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Health	
			Develop unified protocols for health education and promotion		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Health	
			Disaster Management; Enterpreneurship, fisheries		5-8 years	TCCP, Department of Agriculture	
State of Qatar							To be determined later
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	Social Sector		Constructing and Furnishing the Palestine Institution of Diplomacy			Saudi Fund through Alaqsa fund administrated by the Islamic Development bank	The magnitude of the Possible Finance will be determined in a later stage when Al aqsa fund completes the appraisal of the projects

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Singapore	Governance	Total 23 projects	Projects of Institutional Development and support to the Ministry of Planning for aid harmonisation Phase II, and National Monitoring and Evaluation system under the schemes Performance Management				Existing Schemes under SCP/AMED Courses
			Project of Training and Rehabilitiing the Employees of the Ministry of National Economy under the Productivity Management for Government Officials				
			Project of Capacity Building of the Ministry of Local Governance and local governments (bodies) under the Public governance and administration in Singapore				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Social Sector		Project of Tourism Sustainability, Creation of a Tourism Activation Board, Local and Outside training course and scholarships for the tourism and cultural heritage sectors, and legislation of Tourist Sector and Cultural heritage under the schemes of Destination Development and Marketing				
	Economic Development		Trade Corridors facilitation program Executive Programme in Logistic and Distribution,				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Capacity building and infrastructure of quality (develop media center) Capacity building funds of private sector for export purposes Implementation of Trade Agreement and arrangements Improving competitiveness/competitive capacity of Palestinians export and opening new market for them capacity building of Industrial projects (quality awards for industrial distinction) Trade law				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Governance		Accounting financial system for the ministry of Finance under the schemes of Chief Information officer Training programme on the Strategic Planning anad management Information Technology				
			Accounting financial system for the Ministry of Finance under the schemes of e-Government: Journey towards Public Sector Exceilence				
			Computerise Administrative and Financial System under the scheme of Information Technology Management				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Electronic Documents Management System (EDMS) Computerise Administrative and Financial System under the scheme of Use of Information Technology in Public Administration				
	Social Sector		Develop and sustain the capacity of environment quality authority under the scheme of Energy Efficiency through Clean Technologies				
			Develop and sustain the capacity of environment quality authority under the scheme of Environmental Protection and Health Management				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Building the capacities of the Water Authority and the Users' Associations under the scheme of Senior Management Workshop in Sustainable Water Resources Management				
			Develop and Sustain the Capacity of Environment the Capacity of Environment Quality Authority under the scheme Urban Planning and Environment Management in Singapore				
			Building the capacities of the Water Authority and the Users' Associations under the scheme of Used Water Management				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Provide adequate number and competences of human resources (4.2, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 from PRDP) under the scheme of Hospital Management				
			Continuing education program-develop systems and materials, provide effective emergency services (4.6 PRDP template) under the scheme Short Course on Medical and Humanitarian Emergencies				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Active Teaching Methods develop and Implement Training Strategy National Strategy for Teacher Qualification and Training Strengthen Readiness for Primary Eeducation under the scheme of Enhancing Pedagogy Skills for Teacher Trainers				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Active Teaching Methods Technical and Managerial Skills for Head Teachers Training the Administrators in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education Trainnig on the professional specialised diploma in supervision, inclusive education, school leadership, librarians under the scheme of Leading Change in Education				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Active teaching Methods Develop and Implement Training Strategy National Strategy for Teacher Qualification and Training Strengthen Readiness for Primary Education under the scheme of Train-the-Trainers in Early Childhood Development				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
			Build GPC's staff capacities in administrative monitoring of ministries and agencies procedural and legal reform of the HR management and development Human Development and Capacity of SAACB Capacity Building of Employees under the scheme of Human Resource Management in the Civil Service (RTCPA in Qatar, AMED)				
			Capacity Building of MOFA under the scheme of Language and/or Protocol (Customised by MFA)				
			courses on english languge				
Republic of Sri Lanka	Social Sector		Strengthening Readiness for Primary Education: Training of Grade (1) and KG Teachers on ECCD				

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Thailand, Kingdom of		75 scholarship	agriculture, public health, tourism, economics and trade, services and investment		3 years	Thailand International Development Agency	Short term training (60), Master degree (15) for Palestinian Authorities
			tourism sustainability project to be discussed bilaterally			Thailand International Development Agency	
Timor Leste, Democratic republic of							To be determined later
Turkey, republic of	Governance		Constructing and Furnishing the Palestine Institution of Diplomacy		2008-2010	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Turkey
			Capacity building of the ministry of Foreign Affairs of Palestine				
United Arab Emirates				USD 43,000,000	Annual		
Vietnam, Socialist Republic of	Social Sector	7 (Total Number)	Education/Training on Vietnamese studies			Ministry of Education and Higher Education sector	

LIST OF COMMITMENT

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PALESTINE

(2008-2013)

As of 15 July 2008

AFRICA

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Economic Development - Energy	2	Experts Training for the establishing of the electricity Sector organizational Committee			Energy Authority	
	telecommunication and information technology		Legal, Economic and technical Skills				
	Ministry of Industry and Investment Promotion		1) Phase II of the UNIDO integrated program to support the Palestinian Industry: Vocational Training 2) Industrial zone in Tulkarem: training for workers (manly) in the new industries 3) Developing systems to grant standardization certification				with the reservation for conventional financing

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Infrastructure		Sharing Algerian Experience in Procedures of Credit Mobilization to finance and manage the Building of renovating rural Houses for low income Families			Ministry of National Economy	
Angola, Republic of							To be determined later
Arab Republic of Egypt	Governance- Security field		Training program, in cooperation with Donor parties to enhance capacity building in the field of mantaining order and law enforcement			Ministry of Interior	To be implemented in cooperation with international donors
			Programs and training courses ini public security, civil defense, traffic, prisons management, combating against drugs and terrorism, explosives engineering and criminal research				
			Support the Palestinian Police and Prepare its personnel				

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Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	Governance-Judicial field		General and special training Courses with cooperation of Donor Parties in all Palestinian Judicial Branches such as judicial structure, judicial control of implementing laws, criminal law suit, litigation levels, international criminal cooperation, mutual legal assistance, international crimes				To be implemented in cooperation with international donors
			Training courses in Judicial studies, transfer of Egyptian experiance in handling law suits, training courses for experts in medical jurisprudence and contribution to drafting legislations and laws.			Ministry of Justice	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
	diplomatic Field		Training a gruup of Palestinian diplomats at the Institute of diplomatic Studies in Cairo to develop palestinian diplomatic performance, tarining courses may include: a) negotiation skills, b) Protocol, C)diplomatic writing, d) working Mechanism of international order			Ministry of Foreign Affairs	To be implemented in cooperation with international donors
			help to set up a library for the Plaestinian Foreign Ministry through providing books and references				
Ghana, Republic of	Governance		Training in local government administration		2009-2012	Ministry of Local Government & Rural development & institute of Local Government Studies	
Great Socialist People's of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya							To be determined later

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Morocco, Kingdom of	Economic Development		Preparing Palestine to join the WTO as an observer member			Ministry of Foreign Trade	
			Implementation of Trade Agreement and Arrangements			Ministry of Foreign Trade	
			Rehabilitate and develop irrigation network			Ministry of Agriculture	
			Training courses and scholarships for tourism and cultural heritage sectors			Ministry of Tourism	
	Governance		Capacity Building of MOFA			Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	
			Capacity Building of Ministry of Local Governance and Local Government (bodies)			Local Governance, Ministry of Interior	
	Infrastructure		Water and Wastewater Management			Secretary of State (Water)	
	Social Sector		Rehabilitation of the handicapped			Ministry of Social Affairs	
			Credit loan program for women in rural and marginalized areas, and capacity building for small grassroots NGOs that will implement the credit loan program			Ministry of Social Affairs	

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Mozambique, Republic of							To be determined later
Namibia, republic of	Social Sector	To be determined	Attachment at Governmental institutions			Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance (coordinated by MOFA)	Details to be further discussed and agreed upon bilaterally between the government of the Republic of Namibia and PNA
	Governance	4	Education Administration and Governance Management				
Nigeria, Federal Republic of							To be determined later
Senegal, Republic of							To be determined later
Somalia	To join the iniative later						To join the iniative later
South Africa, Republic of	Governance		Increase efficiency in justice sector (training for staff and judges)	Project no. 9		Constitutional Court of South Africa	
			Capacity building for MOFA (training)	Project no. 25		DFA of RSA	
	Social Sector		Training of doctors	Project no. 21		DFA - Trilateral Cooperation Arrangement	
Tunisia, Republic of							To be determined later
Zimbabwe, Republic of							To be determined later

LIST OF COMMITMENTS
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PALESTINE
(2008-2013)

Other Invited Countries and International Organizations

As of 14 July 2008

Countries	Commitment					Implementing Agencies	Methods of Implementation
	Sector	Number of Participant	Project	Other Form	Term		
Brazil							
Venezuela							
Islamic Development Bank							
ESCWA							
UNRWA							

FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

I. INTRODUCTION:

1. At the inaugural New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) Summit Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24 April 2005, it was agreed to strongly support the Struggle of the Palestinian People to establish an independent state. As a follow-up to this decision, the NAASP Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in Durban, in September 2006, declared their unanimous support for the holding of an Asian-African Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine.

2. The NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine was held in Jakarta from 14 July 2008, with the main objective to assist the Palestinians in practical areas of capacity building, in order to prepare them for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state.

3. The Conference took note of existing initiatives to assist Palestine and expressed the conviction that this Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine will complement these existing initiatives.

4. It is imperative to ensure that the outcome of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine be effectively implemented and followed up. There is an urgent need, therefore, for an integrated, interrelated and coherent implementation and follow-up of the recommendations and commitments of the Conference. The implementation process should be monitored so as to identify progress made as well as obstacles hindering full and effective implementation. Whilst NAASP Members, have the primary responsibility to ensure planning, implementation, cooperating partners also have an important role to play in contributing to, assisting in, and reviewing progress of the implementation at all levels.

5. It is in view of the above that the following is proposed as the Follow-up and Evaluation Mechanism of the outcome of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine.

II. FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM

6. The operationalisation of this mechanism will be guided by the individual and collective pledges made by the participants in the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, which is a common vision to assist the Palestinians in practical areas of capacity building, in order to prepare them for the eventual creation of a Palestinian state.

7. The overall objective of the Mechanism will be to assess and evaluate progress made in the implementation of the Ministerial Co-Chair Statement and List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine.

8. In furthering the spirit of transparency and accountability, the Follow Up Mechanism shall include dissemination of the progress and other related information of the implementation of capacity building projects through the existing NAASP Virtual Secretariat to enable NAASP Co-Chairs, Palestine National Authority, Pledging States and other stakeholders to continuously monitor its process.

9. Each level of participant in the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine would carry the following specific responsibilities:

ROLE OF THE COORDINATING UNIT

10. As the Co-Chairs of this NAASP Project and lead-coordinators of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, Indonesia and South Africa together with the Palestinian Representatives in their respective countries, (hereinafter referred to as the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit), will coordinate the follow-up, tailor the commitments to fit the needs of Palestine, and monitor the implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine.

11. The NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit will perform the following functions:

11.1 Co-ordinate and integrate the Palestine Capacity Building proposals with the pledges made at the Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine into a List of Commitments as the first step towards implementation.

11.2 To monitor progress in the implementation of the decisions of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, including:

11.2.1 Sensitising Asian and African countries and international intergovernmental and non governmental organisations about the need to coordinate actions and programmes to implement the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, through various capacity building implementation mechanisms, including tripartite arrangements.

11.2.2 Verifying that all Pledging States establish national capacity and mechanisms to follow-up and evaluate the implementation of the List of Commitments within their own respective competence and according to their respective domestic mechanisms; and

11.2.3 Liaising with the Government of each Pledging State and the Office of the President in the Palestine National Authority in order to establish modalities for the monitoring and implementation of the List of Commitments;

11.3 Prepare relevant reports for consideration by the NAASP Co-Chairs including:

11.3.1 A progress report on the follow-up activities of the Pledging States to NAASP Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM);

11.3.2 Analytical reports prior to the NAASP Ministerial Meeting to assess the status of implementation including factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine;

11.4 Cooperate with other Asian, African, Regional, and International Organisations concerned with the development of Palestine related to capacity building issues and problems and to mobilize resources and support therefore;

11.5 Promote technical co-operation with international co-operation organizations and other agencies, in cooperation with the Office of the President in the Palestine National Authority to support the Pledging States/Parties in their efforts to implement the projects in the List of Commitments.

ROLE OF THE PLEDGING STATE:

12. Respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Pledging States will be responsible for following up the implementation of projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine.

13. Respective Ministries/implementing agencies shall be responsible to develop detailed Terms of Reference in accordance to prevailing domestic mechanism using the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine as a guideline or framework. Ministries shall also utilize various capacity building implementation methods, including tripartite arrangements.

14. Respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Asian and African countries shall notify the implementation progress of the pledged projects, in consultation with the Palestinian authorities, as well as any other National or International implementing agency utilised to assist with implementation with the relevant projects, and submit them to the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit.

15. Each Pledging State or Organisation shall provide and continuously update the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit, in their capacity as coordinators of the NAASP Capacity Building for Palestine projects, the name or names and personal information (address, e-mail address, phone and fax number) of the person or persons identified as their representative responsible to coordinate with the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit on any issue related to this project. When more than one person is appointed, the party shall indicate the name of the person who shall lead the group. In this case, this person shall be the contact point for the Coordinating Unit and the Office of the President in the Palestine National Authority in distributing documents and for all communications.

ROLE OF PALESTINE:

16. The role of the Palestinian Authorities in ensuring the successful implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, will be to establish necessary conditions on the ground, conducive to the implementation of the pledges or projects of the NAASP.

17. The Office of the President of the Palestine National Authority will act as an interface for the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit, authorizing every step in the implementation of the NAASP projects, as contained in the List of Commitments.

18. The Office of the President will be responsible to identify and provide the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit with acceptable financial arrangements for their approval, through which all eligible expenditures related to the NAASP projects could be channelled.

19. There will be an agreed-upon process of validation, certification, audit, and oversight of all expenditures made in the process of implementation of the NAASP projects, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

20. The Palestinian Authorities will assist the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit in identifying international organisations and other agencies to support the NAASP Pledging States or parties in the execution or implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments.

ROLE OF THE NAASP CO-CHAIRS

21. The NAASP Co-Chairs will perform the following functions:

21.1 Monitor progress in the implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, including:

21.1.1 To consider the progress report submitted to the Co-Chairs by the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit on the follow-up activities of the Pledging States;

21.1.2 To consider the analytical reports submitted to the NAASP Co-Chairs by the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit to assess the status of implementation including factors and issues contributing to, or affecting the implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine prior to the NAASP Ministerial Meeting; and

21.1.3 To consider the proposals by the Coordinating Unit to address constraints and problems hindering the implementation of projects;

21.2 Promote cooperation with other Asian, African, Regional, and International Organisations concerned with the development of Palestine related to capacity building issues and problems.

21.3 The NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit as well as representatives of the Palestinian Authorities will assist the NAASP Co-Chairs in the execution of these functions.

21.4 At the conclusion of the review by the NAASP Co-Chairs of the progress with implementation, the NAASP Co-Chairs will circulate a report on the progress to the NAASP Member States.

21.5 The NAASP Co-Chairs will submit a report on the progress in the implementation of the projects in the List of Commitments of the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine to the NAASP Ministerial Meeting.

21.6 Within a period of 5 (five) years, the NAASP Co-Chairs will consider the role, memberships as well as the need for the continuation of the NAASP Palestine Capacity Building Coordinating Unit.

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Agenda items 106, 107 and 108

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-third year

Letter dated 15 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Panama Declaration adopted by the delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru at the Second Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime, held from 26 to 29 May 2008 in Panama City (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 106, 107 and 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ricardo Alberto **Arias** A.
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

08-49277 (E) 090908 090908

Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Second Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

Panama, 26-29 May 2008

Panama Declaration

The delegations of Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru, participating in the Second Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (hereinafter referred to as the Second Ministerial Conference), meeting in Panama City from 26 to 29 May 2008;

Reaffirming their most vehement condemnation of terrorism and transnational organized crime, especially because the violence and corruption they involve are detrimental to the strengthening of democracy, to the enjoyment of basic rights and fundamental freedoms, and to human development;

Renewing their commitment and political will to strengthen regional and international cooperation in order to continue efforts to prevent and eradicate terrorism and transnational organized crime;

Considering that terrorism is a scourge that transcends borders, making it imperative for States to continue working in a coordinated manner to prevent and combat it comprehensively by strengthening international cooperation in the areas of mutual legal assistance and extradition, in accordance with the internal legislation of each State and with international law;

Considering and following up on the work begun under the Panama Declaration on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime[1] adopted in Panama City on 7 April 2006 at the First Ministerial Conference on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime;

Reiterating the importance of States ensuring that all measures taken to prevent and combat terrorism comply with international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law and with all international norms for the protection of victims;

Reaffirming the need to ensure that asylum and refuge remain humanitarian in nature and that the rights of migrants are maintained and respected by the authorities concerned with combating terrorism and transnational organized crime;

Considering that terrorism may sometimes be linked to transnational organized crime and that it is therefore necessary to improve the channels of international cooperation in order to prevent and combat the threat that such collusion may pose to States, based on the principle of shared responsibility;

Reaffirming the commitments set out in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,[2] adopted by consensus on 8 September 2006 by the General Assembly of

[1] Document A/60/820 adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council document A/60/820-S/2006/265.

[2] Resolution 60/288.

the United Nations, which constitutes the frame of reference for the international community as a whole in combating terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations;

Reaffirming also the conviction that strengthening efficient and effective international cooperation is an absolute priority in combating terrorism and transnational organized crime;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 62/71 of 6 December 2007, which requests the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to enhance, through its mandate, the capabilities of the United Nations in the prevention of terrorism;

Recalling also the Declaration of Panama on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure in the Hemisphere in the Face of Terrorism[3] and resolution AG/RES 2272 (XXXVII-O/07) on Support for the Work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the last General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which the Assembly welcomes the offer made by the Government of the Republic of Panama to hold, inter alia, a Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation;

Emphasizing the importance of the Declaration on the Reaffirmation of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fighting Terrorism adopted at the Eighth Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), held in Washington, D.C. from 5 to 7 March 2008;

Recalling that, where applicable, the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted on 25 October 2006 by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States,[4] represents the frame of reference for countries of the region in implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the optional Protocols thereto;

Noting the ongoing work under the mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), headquartered in Vienna, and of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States in providing technical assistance, strengthening cooperation among States and giving continuous support to enable States to meet their obligations under the universal instruments against terrorism[5]

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[3] Adopted at the Seventh Regular Session of CICTE (March 2007).

[4] Document CP/RES. 908 (1567/06).

[5] Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (1963); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (1970); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (1971); Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (1973); International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (1979); Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (1980); Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation (1988); Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (1988); Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (1988); Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (1991); International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997); International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999); International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005); Protocol to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (2005); Protocol to the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf (2005); Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (2005).

and transnational organized crime as well as under the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, and expressing their appreciation to the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and to the Secretariat of CICTE of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security for co-hosting this Second Ministerial Conference;

Acknowledging also the presence of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the group of experts of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, INTERPOL, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Eurojust, the Guardia di Finanzas of Italy and the National Court (Audiencia Nacional) and Office of the Attorney General of Spain;

Declare that:

1. We recognize the importance of the international counter-terrorism instruments and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Optional Protocols thereto. In that connection, we urge all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying them;

2. We congratulate the participating States that, since the adoption of the 2006 Panama Declaration, have become parties to the universal and regional instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime, have adopted internal measures to incorporate the obligations arising from the said instruments into their national legislation, and have submitted reports to the Security Council committees concerned with counter-terrorism as well as the questionnaires on the application of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Optional Protocols thereto;

3. We invite the States participating in this Second Ministerial Conference to continue their efforts to adopt in their internal order the legal norms necessary for the effective implementation of the international instruments aimed at combating terrorism and transnational organized crime;

4. We reiterate the importance of the principle of due process and respect for human rights in criminal proceedings relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime and the need to ensure the protection of those involved in the process and of victims;

5. We will continue to collaborate with the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the United Nations Security Council, established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), and with the committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004);

6. We urge those States that have not yet done so to complete and submit to the Office of Treaty and Legal Affairs of UNODC the questionnaires on the application of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Optional Protocols thereto;

7. We stress the importance of progress in implementing the provisions of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration, wherever possible, the recommendations of the Group of Experts responsible for its implementation;

8. We reiterate the importance of strengthening international coordination and cooperation measures and mechanisms to prevent, combat and eliminate

terrorism and transnational organized crime. In that connection, we urge participating countries to use international instruments, in accordance with their internal legal systems, as the legal basis for requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance and invite States to consider establishing central national INTERPOL offices within their police forces and adopting effective measures to make greater use of INTERPOL Red Notices and to use the INTERPOL I-24/7 communications system and integrated solutions as alternative channels for the transmittal of requests for the exchange of information;

9. We urge those states that have not yet done so to ratify and effectively implement the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters;

10. The attorneys general and public prosecutors of Latin America attending this Second Ministerial Conference urge the participating countries to designate, as the central authority for international instruments relating to criminal matters, the public prosecutor's office or the institution that is competent to handle requests for legal assistance from any country;

11. We are resolved to strengthen the regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms of which countries are members, and in particular to promote coordination initiatives, especially those proposed by the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), the Central American Commission of Public Prosecutor's Offices, IberRED, the Iberoamerican Association of Public Prosecutor's Offices, the Security Strategy for Central America and Mexico and the Commission of Police Chiefs of Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico. In that connection and as appropriate, to use the said mechanisms, taking as an example the use of the Groove Network provided by OAS;

12. The States participating in this Second Ministerial Conference may consider developing, within the scope of these regional and subregional mechanisms, such initiatives as setting up a liaison system for public prosecutors or creating a permanent body for coordination of criminal proceedings, among others;

13. We welcome the initiative of the Government of Panama to hold a Conference on Secure Trade and Transportation in this city in September 2008 as a means of implementing the mandate set out in the Declaration on the Protection of Critical Infrastructure, adopted at the seventh meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism;

14. We welcome the decision of the Government of Brazil to host the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in 2010. In that connection, we urge the countries participating in this Second Ministerial Conference to continue their discussions on international cooperation to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime;

15. We call on:

(i) UNODC and the General Secretariat of OAS to continue to provide technical assistance to the participating States for the effective implementation of the universal counter-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Optional Protocols thereto;

(ii) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including its Terrorism Prevention Branch and its respective regional offices, to strengthen and maintain, under its mandate, the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in coordination with the relevant regional bodies such as the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security;

(iii) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with CTC, its Executive Directorate and the other committees of the United Nations Security Council, to provide bilateral technical assistance to countries that request it in preparing and submitting their reports to the various committees;

(iv) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security of OAS, to provide technical and financial assistance to financial intelligence units that request it;

(v) The Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC/TPB) to increase its technical assistance and, jointly with the Secretariat of CICTE (SMS/OAS), to continue its special training programmes for judges, attorneys general and prosecutors, police officers and other authorities involved in implementing the universal counter-terrorism instruments, the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Optional Protocols thereto. We also call on UNODC/TPB and the Secretariat of CICTE (SMS/OAS) to provide technical and financial assistance for the promotion and strengthening of international cooperation, particularly in extradition matters, when required, and of mutual legal assistance to ensure the successful conclusion of criminal investigations. We also call on these organizations to continue organizing subregional and regional training seminars and workshops on strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters;

16. We acknowledge the usefulness and importance of the technical assistance tools developed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, OAS and other international organizations, and we intend to consider using them in efforts to prevent, combat and eliminate international terrorism and transnational organized crime;

17. We request that the organizations participating in this Second Ministerial Conference circulate this Declaration to their respective memberships and/or member States;

18. We accept the offer of the United Mexican States to have its National Institute for the Study of Criminal Science of the Office of the Attorney General act as a training body for attorneys general, public prosecutors and experts from the countries participating in this Conference;

19. We thank the Government of the Republic of Panama for its hospitality and for having hosted this Second Ministerial Conference in Panama City from 26 to 29 May 2008.

Panama City, 29 May 2008

United Nations A/62/948

General Assembly

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28 August 2008

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Sixty-second session
Agenda items 52 (a) and 54 (a)

Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Identical letters dated 11 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you, on behalf of the Jeddah Meeting on Energy, held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 22 and 23 June 2008, and the meeting of producing and consuming countries, the enclosed joint statement from the Jeddah Energy Meeting and the background paper to the Jeddah Energy Meeting (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 52 (a) and 54 (a).

(*Signed*) Abdullatif H. **Sallam**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

08-49360 (E) 110908

Annex to the identical letters dated 11 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly

[Original: Arabic and English]

Joint Statement

by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Secretariats of the International Energy Agency, the International Energy Forum and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries

Jeddah Energy Meeting

22 June 2008

Upon a timely and kind invitation from the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, Ministers and representatives from many producing and consuming countries, with the attendance of oil industry representatives as observers, met in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 22 June 2008, to discuss the current oil market situation.

Participants noted with concern that oil prices have risen sharply and become more volatile, due to a host of factors. They sought to identify the causes and consequences of recent price behavior and suggested areas of improvement for the efficient operation of the oil market. Participants also noted that current oil prices and their volatility are detrimental to the global economy and, in particular, the economies of least-developed countries.

Participants agreed that the situation requires concerted efforts from all parties — producing and consuming countries, the oil industry and all concerned parties — to bring stability to the international oil market for the benefit of all.

Taking into account their diverse national circumstances and priorities, as well as their shared interest in a stable global oil market and sustainable economic growth, the participants recognized the importance of the following.

- That the existence of spare capacity throughout the oil supply chain is important for the stability of the global oil market. Hence an appropriate increase in investment, both upstream and downstream, is necessary to ensure that the markets are supplied in a timely and adequate manner. Predictable energy and investment policies, as well as better access to technology, are necessary to this end.

- That the transparency and regulation of financial markets should be improved through measures to capture more data on index fund activity and to examine cross-exchange interactions in the crude market.

- That the quality, completeness and timeliness of oil data submitted through the monthly Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI) should be enhanced. In order to further improve market transparency and stability, the seven organizations involved in JODI (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, IEF, OLADE, OPEC and UNSD) are called upon to start work to cover annual data, that includes, among other things, upstream and downstream capacities and expansion plans.

- That there should be immediate collaboration between the IEA and OPEC Secretariats, together with the IEF Secretariat, on preparing shared analyses of oil market trends and outlook, as well as of the impact of financial markets on the level and volatility of oil prices, which can be used to better understand the market situation.

- That development assistance from the national, regional and international finance and aid institutions, is intensified, to alleviate the consequences of higher oil prices on the least-developed countries.

- That co-operation is enhanced among international, national and service companies from all producing and consuming countries in investment, technology and human resource development.

- That energy efficiency is promoted in all sectors through passing on market price signals, technology transfer and the sharing of best practices in energy production and consumption.

The host and the parties to this statement will convene a working group to follow up the needed actions from the above, as appropriate. Participants welcomed the kind invitation from the UK government to hold a meeting on the progress made on the above issues in London before the end of the year.

Background paper to Jeddah Energy Meeting

Jointly Prepared by

the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
the International Energy Agency,
the International Energy Forum,
the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries

Global Efforts to Stabilize the International Oil Market

This background paper of the special meeting of producing and consuming countries, as well as some representatives from the oil industry — which is taking place in Jeddah on 22 June 2008 — has been prepared by the host country, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Energy Forum (IEF) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It seeks to identify the causes and consequences of the recent price behavior and suggests areas of improvement for the efficient operation of the oil market.

Introduction

Spot and long-term oil futures prices have risen sharply in the recent past. This has been accompanied by an increase in price volatility.

However, despite such a price environment, global oil demand, although slower, continues to grow steadily, driven by non-OECD countries, where GDP growth is a much more important determinant of demand than price. This growth has been reinforced by the fact that oil demand is occurring basically in the price-inelastic sectors, such as transportation and petrochemicals, and is being influenced by the effects of subsidies and taxes.

This growth has also been accompanied by stronger linkages between the oil markets (as well as other commodity markets) and the financial markets, with activity in regulated and unregulated commodity exchanges also expanding.

This price behavior nevertheless impacts upon both consumers and producers, energy-intensive industries and the growth path of the world economy, even though this has, to date, been more resilient. However, the impact on the least-developed countries has been more pronounced.

The recent developments in the world oil market require concerted action from all parties — consumers, producers, the oil industry, the concerned intergovernmental organizations and all other interested parties — to work towards understanding the underlying reasons behind such developments, reducing uncertainties and taking the necessary actions to ensure the stability and sustainability of the energy system.

Causes of the Recent Oil Price Developments

The causes of the recent oil price behavior are multiple and complex. A host of factors has been contributing to it, and their exact weights are difficult to assess.

The following market fundamentals factors can be identified.

- Lower crude oil spare capacity, relative to historic high levels, in the face of the projected rise in demand, has made markets wary of future supplies. Constrained upstream investment in some producing and consuming areas, due to different factors, such as access to technology, cost-inflation, shortages of skilled manpower, political and investment constraints, and demand predictability, has had an impact on such capacity.

- Limited refining capacity in oil product markets, due to a constrained refining investment, environmental standards, cost-inflation and stringent laws and regulations, resulting in poorer refining margins. This has been amplified by a mismatch between the quality of crude supply on the one hand and the demand for lighter products and tighter specifications on the other. In addition, while contributing to energy supply growth, biofuels are having a compounding effect on the refining industry in some regions.

- Fears of supply disruptions, driven by geopolitical concerns, technical shut-ins, accidents and weather-related events, such as hurricanes.

- Perceptions by some market participants of a limited oil resource base, lower growth in non-OPEC supply and lower-than-normal levels of some product stocks.

- The inclination of refineries to increase the distillate yields to meet demand and improve their margins has pushed up the price of distillates, as well as dragging up the price of crude oil.

In addition to the above market fundamentals factors, there have been other causes not necessarily related to the underlying demand and supply trends. Some of these can be identified as follows.

- The increasing interaction between the oil market and the financial markets, making oil more of a financial asset than before.

- The increase in the investment inflows from financial institutions, pension and hedge funds, and private equities, into the oil (and other commodities) futures and over-the-counter markets, due to the relative weakness in the value of the dollar and the lower returns on other assets.

- Uncertainties about the monetary, fiscal, energy, investment, trade and environmental policies of consuming and producing countries.

- Unrealistic assessments of the oil market situation and price projections by some entities.

While global demand has been growing for the past few years, as has been the case with global supply, all the above-mentioned factors and causes have played a part in increasing price levels and their volatility.

Consequences of the Oil Price Developments

The oil price rises and the underlying volatility, if they continue without concerted action from all parties, will have an impact on the economies of the consuming and

producing countries alike, as well as on the long-term stability of the international oil market and world economy. This could have the following consequences.

- The adverse impact on economic growth, especially in the least-developed countries, through the energy/economy linkages.

- Higher oil prices will affect heavily energy-intensive industries and the cost of transportation, and could result in higher inflation.

- Higher oil prices will enhance the flow of investment into alternative fuels, which will put a floor to oil prices.

- Continued oil price volatility gives confusing signals to investors in the upstream and downstream and delays required investment.

- Higher oil prices and volatility have increased activity in the oil futures markets in a spiralling effect.

Proposals to address the current world oil market situation

The causes and consequences of the current oil price environment referred to above call for a combination of efforts on the part of producing and consuming countries, the oil industry and all other interested parties. Taking into account their diverse national circumstances and priorities, as well as their shared interest in a stable global oil market and sustainable economic growth, the following proposals can be considered.

- Spare capacity throughout the oil supply chain is important for the stability of the global oil market. Hence an appropriate increase in investment, both upstream and downstream, is necessary to ensure that the markets are supplied in a timely and adequate manner. Predictable energy and

investment policies, as well as better access to technology, are necessary to this end.

- Improve the transparency and regulation of financial markets through measures to capture more data on index fund activity and to examine cross-exchange interactions in the crude market.

- Enhance the quality, completeness and timeliness of oil data submitted through the monthly Joint Oil Data Initiative (JODI), covering production, consumption, exports, imports and stocks. In order to further improve market transparency and stability, the seven organizations involved in JODI (APEC, Eurostat, IEA, IEF, OLADE, OPEC and UNSD) could start work to cover annual data, that includes, among other things, upstream and downstream capacities and expansion plans.

- Immediate collaboration between the IEA and OPEC Secretariats, together with the IEF Secretariat, on preparing shared analyses of oil market trends and outlook, as well as of the impact of financial markets on the level and volatility of oil prices, which can be used to better understand the market situation.

- Intensify development assistance from the national, regional and international finance and aid institutions, to alleviate the consequences of higher oil prices on the least-developed countries.

- Enhance co-operation among international, national and service companies from all producing and consuming countries in investment, technology and human resource development.

- Promote energy efficiency in all sectors, through passing on market price signals, technology transfer and the sharing of best practices in energy production and consumption.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 49
Culture of peace

Letter dated 26 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that from 3 to 6 April 2008, the Royal Government of Cambodia hosted a regional conference on "Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony" in Phnom Penh, with the participation of South-East Asian and the Pacific countries.

The participants were very much encouraged by the comments made by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, in his keynote address at the opening of the conference, in which he endorsed principles of culture and peace and called for its spread to all the corners of the world. At the end of the conference an outcome document was adopted, entitled "Phnom Penh Dialogue 2008 on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony" (see annex, enclosure 2).

I would be grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its annex, including the outcome document of this important conference (see annex, enclosure 1), circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 49, "Culture of peace".

(*Signed*) **Sea** Kosal
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia to the United Nations

08-49844 (E) 150908

Annex to the letter dated 26 August 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Enclosure 1

Phnom Penh Dialogue 2008 on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony

3-6 April 2008

We, the participants in the Phnom Penh Dialogue 2008 on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony — from Australia, Brunei Darussalem, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, gathered in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 3-6 April 2008.

This Dialogue builds on the commitments from previous dialogues in Yogjakarta in 2004, Cebu in 2006 and Waitangi in 2007.

We thank the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia for hosting the fourth Regional Interfaith Dialogue, and for providing the opportunity to appreciate the richness of Khmer cultural traditions. We also express our appreciation to the Governments of Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines as co-sponsors of the Dialogue process.

We were very much encouraged by the comments made by His Excellency Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, as well as senior representatives from the host and co-sponsoring countries at the opening ceremony, "endorsing the principle of a culture of peace and calling for its spread to all the corners of the world".

In reflecting on our progress since Jogjakarta in 2004, two realities have encouraged us. First, many countries have already demonstrated significant progress in promoting stable and cohesive communities. Second, it is now clear that there are many practical initiatives at all levels of society that have been implemented and have reduced religious disharmony and engender cooperation towards the common good.

In this light we have agreed to commit ourselves to work towards the following in conjunction with governments and other sectors of society:

(a) multifaith dialogue and cooperation;

(b) peace as a sacred priority;

(c) increased participation by women and youth in interfaith dialogue;

(d) sharing with our communities successful examples of multifaith dialogue and cooperation and encouraging others to participate; and

(e) interfaith cooperation that addresses issues of critical community concerns in our region such as poverty, HIV, human rights, environmental issues and natural disasters.

Action plan

Relationships

1. We encourage governments to investigate possible mechanisms for maintaining regional interfaith activity between Dialogues.

2. We recommend further cooperation on the development of bilateral (country-to-country) programmes and projects, encouraging interreligious cooperation and understanding.

3. We encourage a stronger focus on dialogue within religions, including through intrafaith dialogue at national and regional levels.

Education and capacity-building

4. We recommend bringing educationalists together to develop curricula to promote interfaith understanding and human rights from religious perspectives.

5. We acknowledge the value of contemplative spiritual practices as an aid to promoting peace and resolving conflict.

6. We recommend the improvement of the religious education curriculum in order to help promote moderate religious views among youth.

Conflict resolution and peacebuilding

7. We recommend utilizing religious and spiritual leaders of standing to assist in resolving intercommunal conflicts and tensions within the region.

8. we recommend strengthening collaborative religious structures and networks for developing conflict resolution skills, practices and attitudes in areas of intercommunal conflict.

9. We recommend exploring the possibility of joint projects and activities, engaging people across faith traditions in areas of communal tension.

10. We recommend the sharing of case studies of effective examples of responding to violence.

Grass-roots initiatives

11. We recommend helping communities learn more about each other through informal settings such as community gatherings, festivals, sporting events or projects.

12. We recommend broadening of the dialogue process to include more of those not currently involved.

13. We recommend the development of mechanisms by which the role of women in interfaith activity can be further recognized, including through the establishment of women's interfaith forums and by providing training and support.

14. We recommend strengthening multi-religious youth networks across the region, encouraging cooperation, including through exchange programmes, camps and training programmes.

Media and promoting interfaith understanding

15. We encourage the media to balance freedom of speech with responsibility.

16. We will work to ensure a positive contribution by the media in building understanding between religions and faiths with particular regard to how biased and inflammatory reporting may foment division.

17. We recommend further training to assist faith leaders to communicate effectively with and through the modern media.

We recommend that this Dialogue process continue and that options for hosting the next meeting be explored.

Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 4 April 2008

Enclosure 2

Keynote Address at the Opening of the International Conference on "2008 Dialogue on Inter-Religious Cooperation for Peace and Harmony in Phnom Penh"

Phnom Penh, 3 April 2008

Your Venerable Monks,
All Venerable Religious Leaders,
Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished National and International Guests,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to join the opening of the international conference on "2008 Dialogue on Inter-Religious Cooperation for Peace and Harmony", which is an important dialogue for the region and the world today and in the future. Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia and on my own behalf, I would like to express my appreciation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Religions and Cults an the embassies of Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and New Zealand in the Kingdom of Cambodia for having jointly organized this conference and for providing both material and financial support to this conference. At the same time, I would also like to thank the Venerable Monks, religious leaders, especially all the 15 religious representatives, as well as Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, who have spent your valuable time to attend this conference to share knowledge, experience, findings and vision about the progress of all religions, which is widely regarded as a key for political stability, economic growth as well as stronger culture of peace and harmony for the region and the world.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to highlight that Cambodia has widely opened itself to allow the rights of religious beliefs to Cambodians as clearly stipulated in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Cambodia. In this regard, the Royal Government of Cambodia highly appreciates the role of religion and puts it in its national motto, "Nation, Religion, King", to enhance the achievement of parallel progress and joint development which are complementary. As we all know, that religion has contributed a lot to development and peace for the whole society. For instance, religion teaches us honesty, justice, good deeds and not to sin and shows us the way to liberate ourselves from miseries by staying away from dishonesty and evil acts from anger, violence and greed in order to make way to tranquillity of mind. Within such a deep sense, the Royal Government has put every effort to encourage and support all religious followers in Cambodia to continue their practices following the rule of each religious bible with mutual understanding and tolerance.

Belief is the root of culture and civilization of every race of each region in the world. Moreover, most religious conflicts of followers could be due to the different culture and civilization. Therefore, it encourages relevant authorities of countries in the region and the world to cooperate and unify together and taking all necessary measures to achieve peace and happiness for human beings and, especially, harmony among all religions. Indeed, dialogues on many of these issues have been organized in the international inter-belief conference in Asia-Pacific and national conference in Asia-Europe. Even though the topics in those international conferences are different, they have been organized for a single purpose — of ensuring peace and

happiness for all religions in the world with mutual understanding and tolerance. As we already know that, peace and happiness are the wishes of every human being and every nation.

At the same time, we need to also look at the inner beliefs and understanding of religious leaders as individuals and their followers with their daily livelihood. In this context, it means that religious belief and livelihood are interrelated. I think that the strengthening and expanding of the social sector through various means such as providing national education, informal education, health care and enhancing the livelihood of all religious followers as well as supporting the progress of every religion, will contribute to the achievement of a society which is free from violence, racism and discrimination.

In Cambodia, all types of religion have been revitalized at the same time as the event of 7 January 1979 when the country was liberated from the killing of the regime of Democratic Cambodia. In this aspect, I always encourage all religions to live together in harmony and jointly contribute to rebuild and develop Cambodia. These are the tasks which have been partly completed and are to be carried out by the Royal Government of Cambodia in the future.

It is true that 95 per cent of Cambodians are Buddhist followers and Buddhism is the national religion, but the country does not prohibit and limit the beliefs of other religious followers. In this context, it clearly manifests that all religious practices are being carried out smoothly all over the country, and so far they never caused any threat to the national security and public order. This is a result of the attention made by the Royal Government in the development of religious affairs and enhancing the religious sector to make progress by avoiding the violation of what I have suggested following the three points during the National Inter-belief Conference, which was recently held on 20 February:

Firstly, honour cooperation, solidarity and honesty based on the principle of mutual respect, understanding and tolerance in all circumstances for the sake of unification and harmony of the society.

Secondly, respect and practise your respective religious rules while respecting the rights of other religious followers by adhering to non-violence, mercy, compassion and forgiveness.

Thirdly, respecting personal freedom and religious belief is the value of each religion in its pursuance of the righteous path for national happiness.

Indeed, what is being raised here constitutes good experience for other countries in the region and the world [illegible]ke as a role model for uniting all religions harmonically and peacefully. At the same time, Cambodia would like to share all experiences from this work and support the inter-religious cooperation to realize harmony and peace.

In short, progress in all religions depends on the belief of their followers. In this regard, the Governments of all countries should gather all religious leaders and followers to jointly build and develop society to realize prosperity and harmony without discriminating against any religion and without violence. In this spirit, I would like to appeal to all religious leaders and followers to keep alive the culture of harmonious coexistence to develop our society.

Through the international conference on "2008 Dialogue on Inter-Religious Cooperation for Peace and Harmony", which is being held in the Kingdom of Cambodia, I hope the participants will discuss, exchange dialogue, and contribute their knowledge, experience, findings and vision to enable this inter-religious conference to achieve its plan and common principles which constitute the principles of culture and peace. At the same time, I would like to appeal to all religious representatives, especially religious representatives from the 15 countries who are here, to disseminate and mainstream the principles of culture and peace, specifically the will, spiritual, moral, and humanitarian, to all parts of the world; and may the culture of peace exist everywhere in the world.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share three recommendations for your discussion, as follows:

First, we must support the delivery and absorption of global scientific knowledge in all societies and countries;

Second, we must support the sharing of culture, civilization and arts among all nationals in order to bridge differences and realize joint accomplishments;

Third, we must promote the participation of all religions in dealing with major global issues, including the environment, food security and poverty, etc.

Once again, I would like to thank all friendly countries for supporting this conference and related institutions for cooperating closely with one another to organize this conference. Your support and encouragement are the dynamic force that would enable future conferences of this kind. At the same time, I wish this conference to proceed smoothly and fruitfully for the benefit of the society and all human beings.

Finally, I would like to wish your Venerable Monks, religious leaders, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen the five gems of Buddhist Blessings; and may I now declare the opening of the "2008 Dialogue on Inter-Religious Cooperation for Peace and Harmony" conference.

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 16
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 29 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present statement could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 16 "Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development".

(*Signed*) Ana **Radu**
Charge d'affaires a.i.

08-49836 (E) 090908

Annex to the letter dated 29 August 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Government of the Republic of Moldova on the events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia

The Moldovan authorities and the entire Moldovan society followed with concern the development of events in South Ossetia and Abkhazia over the last weeks. Unfortunately, the parties to the year-long inter-ethnic conflict in Georgia have once again failed to find an adequate solution based on the standards of international law and human values. It has been transformed into a bloody drama, with casualties among the civilian population.

Categorically rejecting all methods of forcible settlement, including those of ensuring territorial integrity, the Moldovan Government does not consider, however, that international recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia will stabilize the situation. Just as in the case of the recognition of Kosovo, this will achieve nothing other than to reduce the responsibility of the parties to the conflict in finding a compromise and a way of identifying equitable and modern solutions by respecting the territorial integrity and observing human rights and freedoms.

At the same time, we deem it inappropriate to compare the situation in Georgia with the one in Transnistria. We also believe that speculations on how the situation in Abkhazia and South Ossetia might affect the Transnistrian settlement process are counterproductive. Moldova has already created very favourable prerequisites for its settlement and there is political will on all sides participating in the settlement to the conflict.

The Moldovan Government states that it will further determine its attitude towards the situation in South Ossetia and Abkhazia only in line with the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of the United Nations and all the current principles of international law.

Chişinău, 29 August 2008

United Nations A/62/951

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Sixty-second session
Agenda item 18
Question of Palestine

Letter dated 2 September 2008 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that, by a letter dated 7 July 2008 addressed to the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (see annex), the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua expressed interest in Nicaragua becoming a member of the Committee, to which it had already been granted observer status.

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, at its 311th meeting held on 2 September 2008, welcomed the decision of Nicaragua and approved its request. In the view of the Committee, this reflects the growing international support for its efforts to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine.

In light of the above, and since the membership of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has been established by the General Assembly, I have the honour to request that you bring the matter to the attention of the Assembly for its approval.

(*Signed*) Paul **Badji**
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights
of the Palestinian People

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Annex to the letter dated 2 September 2008 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to address you in reference to the status of Nicaragua on the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, over which you so honourably preside.

Nicaragua has historically put forth positions in favour of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which the Committee upholds. It has favoured a just solution to the Palestinian question and, for some time now, our country has been active in the Committee in the capacity of observer.

Because of the history of Nicaragua in upholding the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, and the particular interest of the Government of National Reconciliation and Unity of my country in this regard, I am writing to inform you of our interest in becoming a full member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

I express my gratitude to you for putting this request forward through the established practice and procedures of the Committee.

(*Signed*) Maria **Rubiales de Chamorro**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative